



"Enriching Lives"

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

500 W. Temple Street / Los Angeles, CA 90012 / Room B-50 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Website – www.LACCW.info / 213-974-1455 Office / 213-633-5102 Fax / laccw@lacbos.org E-mail



Empower, Influence and Forge Ahead!

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 9, 2009

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on Monday, November 9, 2009 in the Sybil Brand Conference Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Duba called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Reiko Duba
Vice President Bobbi Jean Tanberg
Treasurer, Yolanda Becerra-Jones
Commissioner Ruth Creary, Ph.D.
Commissioner Olivia G. Rodriguez
Commissioner Veda E. Ward, Ph.D.
Commissioner Ruth Jernigan
Commissioner Charlotte Lesser
Commissioner Julie McCarthy Napoleon
Commissioner Tanner

Introduction of audience followed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 5, 2009

On motion of Commissioner Lesser, seconded by Commissioner Creary, unanimously carried, the minutes of October 5, 2009 were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Duba reported the following:

- On behalf of Commissioner Mummey, the family presented a token of their appreciation to the Commission for Women.
- October 27 – Six Commissioners attended The Women's Conference.

MEMBERS

Reiko Duba
President

Bobbi Jean Tanberg
Vice President

Yolanda Becerra-Jones
Treasurer

Ruth V. Creary, Ph.D.
Norma L. Gallegos
Wadie M. Gravely
Ruth Jernigan
Charlotte Lesser
Julie McCarthy Napoleon
Michelle Pinedo
Olivia G. Rodriguez
Jill Tanner
Veda E. Ward, Ph.D.

- October 31 – The LA County Run for Health 5K Run/Walk & 10K Walk was held at Dockweiler Beach. President Duba thanked the following individuals: sisters together, Commissioner Lesser, community members, Sandra Barbee for providing 15 staff members, and Commissioners who participated in the event. Supervisor Knabe and Deputies Gail Tierney and Steve Napolitano were in attendance. President Duba Presented Vice President Tanberg with a medal for her event participation. A complete report of the LA County Run for Health will be presented to the Commission in December. President Duba invited Commissioners to attend the 5K Run/Walk & 10K Walk wrap-up meeting following the Commission meeting.
- November 8 – met with Coach David Lavine and community members to thanked them for their support. City of Angels Half Marathon scheduled for December 6, 2009 was canceled.
- December 14 – The Commission will present checks to Domestic Violence Shelters within each Supervisorial District. President Duba reminded Commissioners to submit their selection of shelters to staff.
- Commissioner Creary commended President Duba for her leadership and outstanding work in organizing the 5K Run/Walk & 10K Run.

(Commissioner Gallegos joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m.)

STAFF REPORT

Twila Kerr, Commission Service Staff, reported the following:

- An invitation was received from State of California to participate in the Orange County Grand Jury. The deadline to submit an application is January 8, 2010.
- The Department of Public Health submitted the latest information/flyer on vaccine availability and supply of the H1N1 vaccine. Handouts of the flyers are available on the sign in table.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Becerra-Jones reported the following on the expendable allowance for the month of October 2009. The beginning balance was \$14,056.58; flex spending expenditures were \$3,448.84 and November Spending balance is \$4,981.05. (Report filed with Commission Services).

**UPDATE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS FUNDING – TULYNN SMYLIE,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WOMEN SHELTER OF LONG BEACH**

Tulynn Smylie, Executive Director, Women Shelters of Long Beach, reported the following:

- Every 15 seconds, a women in this country is beaten by her husband or boyfriend. Domestic violence is a leading cause of serious injury to women; it accounts for three times more emergency room visits than car accidents and muggings combined. On average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in this county every day.
- In 2000, 1,247 women were killed by an intimate partner. In the same year, 440 men were killed by an intimate partner. In 2008, there were 166,343 calls to Law Enforcement in California involving Domestic Violence; more than one quarter of these were in LA County (26%) – 43,458. 62% of these calls in the County involved a weapon. In 2008, there were 27 deaths in Los Angeles County related to Domestic Violence. In 2009 (Jan-Sep), there were already 35 deaths recorded by the District Attorney’s office an increase of 30%.
- In 2007, throughout Los Angeles County, shelters had 800 beds to meet the needs of Domestic Violence victims/survivors. The number of shelter beds has been drastically reduced as a result of the recent economic downturn and as a result of budget cuts. Passage of the current state budget resulted in the elimination of state funding to 94 Domestic Violence Programs (a loss of \$207,000 to each program). As a result of the recent economic downturn, a significant loss of staff, shelter space and services were reduced.
- The Women Shelter of Long Beach asked the Commission for assistance in helping shelter agencies to identify additional and new funding streams and to develop a County-wide fundraising event to help all the shelters-based agencies in the County. President Duba mentioned that in the past, the Commission donated Domestic Violence Victim’s Handbooks to the shelter and hosted a breakfast briefing. Commissioner Becerra-Jones stated that she and Commissioner Rodriguez will look into the issue and report back to the Commission. She also mentioned that a shelter director has access to a celebrity who is supportive of Domestic Violence issues. Commissioner Becerra-Jones suggested the Commission locate a venue to hold a fund raiser event to generate funding for all the shelters in Los Angeles County.

President Duba thanked Tulynn Smylie for her report and update on the Domestic Violence Shelters Funding.

PRESENTATION ON GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER FOR HOMELESS WOMEN & CHILDREN – CATHY SEWARD, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Cathy Seward, Development Director, Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women & Children, reported the following:

- An estimated 43,000 people are homeless in Los Angeles County each night. 32% are women. Since 1984, Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women and Children has provided food, clothing, shelter and supportive services to some of our community's most vulnerable citizens. Today, thousands are homeless no more, and are living healthy, safe and productive lives. The shelter provides a continuum of care with the ultimate goal of permanently ending homeless for those who come through the center's doors.
- Nightly, up to 93 women and 25 children receive housing and supportive services in its four homes. Good Shepherd Center's current services include the following:
 - **Languille Emergency Shelter and Drop-In Center** – Mobile Outreach servicing unsheltered homeless women in dire need.
 - **Languille Drop-In Center** – The Drop-in Center serves unsheltered homeless women by providing food, clothing, showers, laundry, crisis intervention services, offers of shelters and referrals to other social services agencies.
 - **Languille Emergency Shelter** – Each night, up to 30 unaccompanied homeless women receive emergency shelter, communal meals, clothing, and assistance with obtaining employment services, government benefits and housing placement. In Fiscal Year 2009, all Languille programs served nearly 700 women.
 - **Employment and Client Services Center** – Offers job development, referral and counseling services to all residents of Good Shepherd Center. Comprehensive case management, computer training and job training are also provided at the shelter. The village kitchen is a bakery, café and catering service which is open to the public and offers hands-on job training and work experience in the culinary arts. Ms. Seward invited the Commission to visit the café.

President Duba thanked Cathy Seward for her informative presentation on Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women and Children.

DISCUSSION OF GUIDELINES FOR ANNUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DONATION TO THE COUNTY'S DV SHELTERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS – COMMISSIONERS RODRIGUEZ AND BECERRA-JONES

Commissioner Rodriguez discussed the guidelines for donation of funds to shelters and Domestic Violence Service Providers/Agencies. The donation is intended to provide financial support to shelter(s) or agencies that provide services to domestic violence clients. The list of shelters and domestic violence services providers was distributed to the Commissioners. Commissioner Rodriguez further stated to submit selection of shelter to staff by November 23. Staff will provide the Commissioners the list of previous selected shelters that have received donations. Presentation of the donation will be held at the December 14 Commission meeting.

The Domestic Violence Committee will meet to discuss the policy and donation distribution and make a recommendation to the Commission at a future meeting.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL ON EMERITUS POSITION – THE COMMISSION

A "Final" Emeritus Status Criteria was distributed to Commissioners for discussion and approval. The Commission discussed the need for additional evaluation on the criteria of Emeritus Status. After further discussion, on motion of Commissioner Creary, unanimously carried, the Commission continued the item to January 2010.

REPORT ON THE GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE OF OCTOBER 27, 2009 – THE COMMISSION

Commissioners Ward, Gallegos, and Becerra-Jones stated that the Governor's Conference was an exceptional experience. Over 100 women and men spoke at the conference.

REPORT ON THE COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES ACCESS AWARDS LUNCHEON OF OCTOBER 19, 2009 – VICE PRESIDENT TANBERG AND COMMISSIONER CREARY

Vice President Tanberg stated the awards luncheon was a wonderful event. Several individuals were awarded for making a difference in the community.

REPORT ON THE BETTY FISHER DV INTERVENTION/PRESENTATION AWARD CEREMONY HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 2009 – COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ

Commissioner Rodriguez stated that two individuals were selected and recognized with the "Betty Fisher Award" Ruth Slaughter who was a key person that was part of the taskforce that established the Domestic Violence Council. Suma Mathai from Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice was also recognized.

Commissioner Rodriguez thanked the Commission for supporting the Domestic Violence Council, Betty Fisher Awards event.

DISCUSSION ON THE 11TH ANNUAL LA COUNTY RUN FOR HEALTH 5K RUN/WALK AND 10K RUN HELD ON OCTOBER 31, 2009

Commissioner Lesser thanked everyone who attended and participated in the LA County Run for Health held October 31.

President Duba thanked the Commission and volunteers who participated. She mentioned that the event was well organized. Title sponsors did not take part at this years' event, including the participation of the Roadrunners Club.

President Duba further stated that a 5K Run/Walk 10K Run meeting will be held today following the Commission meeting.

UPDATE ON THE WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS LUNCHEON

Commissioner Ward reported that the Women of The Year Nomination Application is now posted on the Commission for Women website. Commissioner Tanner volunteered to play the harp at the Women of The Year luncheon. Commissioner Ward is meeting with the Biltmore Hotel representative sometime in December or January to sample the food. She will notify the committee members of the upcoming teleconference meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AS NEEDED

- **Communications** – None reported.
- **Legislation** – Commissioner Jernigan stated that the Health Care Reform passed the House; the bill will move to the Senate. The health care bill would expand coverage by making more people eligible for Medicaid, and by offering subsidies to help moderate-income people buy insurance.
- **Domestic Violence** – None reported.
- **Education** – Commissioner Becerra-Jones reported that 35 outstanding scholarship applications have been submitted for review.
- **Older Women's Issues** – Pat Wilson reported that staff has not received response from the Second Supervisorial District. She will follow-up with staff.

- **Health** – Commissioner Lesser distributed the minutes of the Health Committee meeting held October 20, 2009. She commended Commissioner Rodriguez for her tireless work on the Health Note and DV Alcoholism for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Commissioner Lesser further stated that she attended the 4th Annual Excellence in Healthcare Gala hosted by the South Bay Family Health Care.
- **Other** – None reported.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner McCarthy-Napoleon introduced Laurie Brown who is the Coordinator of the Community Service Internship Programs at Marlborough School. Ms. Brown commented about the financial literacy class she's been teaching 9th grade students.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Creary reported the following:

- October 5 – attended the Distinguished Speakers Series Conference at the Pasadena Civic Center Auditorium.
- October 19 – attended the Commission on Disabilities Access Awards Luncheon at the Grand Kyoto Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles.
- October 24 – attended the 30th Anniversary Scholarship Luncheon at the Inglewood Pacific Chapter.
- October 26 – attended the Governor and First Lady Women's Conference at the Long Beach Convention Center.

(Community Outreach/Announcement filed in Commission Services)

MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA)

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

Reiko Duba, President
Bobbi Jean Tanberg, Vice President
Yolanda Becerra-Jones, Treasurer
Charlotte Lesser
Ruth V. Creary, Ph.D.
Veda Ward, Ph.D.
Olivia Rodriguez
Ruth Jernigan
Norma Gallegos
Julie McCarthy-Napoleon
Jill Tanner

EXCUSED

Wadie M. Gravely

UNEXCUSED

Michelle Pinedo

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Twila P. Kerr
Mireya Rivera
Emma De Jesus

GUESTS

Pat Wilson
Laurie Brown, Marlborough School, Los Angeles
Sonia Demessie, California Women's Commission on Addictions
Tulynn Smylie, Women's Shelter of Long Beach
Cathy Seward, Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women & Children